

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01077 041504Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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R 040631Z AUG 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3440

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1077

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJ: IRAQI REACTION TO SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN ACCORD IN LEBANON

1. ALTHOUGH IT IS CLEAR FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THAT GOI IS FURIOUS ABOUT RECENT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN ACCORD IN LEBANON, THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOI DENUNCIATION. COHSENT: ANTI-SETTLEMENT INVECTIVE HAS BEEN LIMITED TO PERSONALITIES LABELED IN MEDIA AS BAATH PARTY SPOKESMEN, STUDENT REPS, ETC. THUS, BAGHDAD OBSERVER IN ARTICLE OF AUGUST SECOND IDENTIFIES FLEYAH HASSAN AL-JASSIM ONLY AS MEMBER OF BAATH PARTY BAGHDAD BRANCE (BUT POINTEDLY NOT RPT NOT AS MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES AND MINERALS) IN REPORTING HIS ADDRESS ON THE AGREEMENT AUGUST FIRST BEFORE GENERAL FEDERATION OF JORDANIAN STUDENTS. IN THAT ADDRESS JASSIM CHARACTERIZED ASSAD REGIME AS CATSPA W OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM IN LEBANON.

2. SEMI-OFFICIAL JUMHURIYEH EDITORIAL OF AUGUST SECOND SAID
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01077 041504Z

SYRIAN REGIME USED FORCE AND THREATS TO COMPEL PLO ACQUIESCE

IN AGREEMENT. EDITORIAL UNDERLINED SYRIA'S ROLE IN INSETTING
CLAUSE ASSURING PLO NON-INTERFERENCE IN LEBANON'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. COME OF OUR USUAL SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT WHAT IRKS GOI
IS THAT IT WAS NEITHER CONSULTED NOR INFORMED BY PLO PRIOR TO
ACCORD WITH SYRIA--WHICH GOI TOOK AS SIGN TO WORLD OF IRAQ'S
IRRELEVANCE (TO BOTH ASSAD AND ARAFAT) TO QUESTION OF WHO
WEILDS POWER IN LEBANON.

4. COMMENT: PLOY OF DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT
SPOKESMEN IS NOT NEW TO GOI, WHICH USED DEVICE VIS-A-VIS EGYPT
AFTER SINAI ACCORD. RELATIVELY CONCILIATORY LANGUAGE USED ABOUT
UNBEARABLE PRESSURE FACED BY PLO IN ACCEPTING ACCORD SEEMS DESIGNED
TO KEEP BOTH BAATH PARTY AND GOI LINES OPEN TO PLO.
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